

to produce the first joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11 attacks as "anti-religious."

Although His All Holiness speaks English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin and Turkish, he is more widely known for his efforts at promoting interfaith dialogue. As a Christian leader of global significance who is domiciled in a country with a population that is 99 percent Muslim, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's everyday life experience gives him a unique, mature and realistic perspective for engaging in this interfaith dialogue. And it is from these everyday life experiences that the moral timber of His All Holiness shines brightest, where even in the face of Turkish government sanctioned discrimination, oppression and outright physically threatening provocations, he steadfastly remains committed to interfaith conciliation, and supports peace-makers of all religions and stands firm upon his conviction that war in the name of religion is war against religion.

Beyond urging humanity to seek peace in fraternal harmony, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has more than any other religious leader promoted the spiritual dimension of environmentalism. In 2008, Time Magazine named Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to its list of the world's 100 most influential people, where the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams acknowledged that "This brave and visionary pastor has given a completely new sense to the ancient honorific [Ecumenical Patriarch]; his work puts squarely on our agenda the question of how we express spiritual responsibility for the world we live in."

For his unparalleled spiritual commitment to the natural environment, His All Holiness has been dubbed the "Green Patriarch." The Green Patriarch has challenged people of faith to acknowledge that ecological questions are spiritual matters of concern for all humanity and that "a world in which God the Creator uses the material stuff of the universe to communicate who he is and what he wants is one that demands reverence from human beings."

Just last week, His All Holiness presided over the Religion, Science and the Environment Symposium entitled Restoring Balance: The Great Mississippi River, and just last night, His All Holiness arrived at Andrews Air Force Base for a weeklong visit to our Capitol city. I offer my congratulations to His All Holiness for his good deeds in the pursuit of interfaith peace and reconciliation, for his concern with our natural environment and for his activism that has brought him to the shores of America to help draw attention to the need to restore our environment, such as the need to restore to health the great Mississippi River.

It is a wonderful honor that His All Holiness is here in America upon the day of the 18th anniversary of his enthronement as Ecumenical Patriarch during his visit to our country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 831, on a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to "Expressing support for designation of a 'National Firefighters Memo-

rial Day' to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States." Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2996, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this FY 10 Interior-Environment Conference Report and the key investments it makes to clean up our water, improve our national parks, combat climate change and promote the arts.

In order to remedy the previous administration's underinvestment in our Nation's water infrastructure, this legislation provides \$2.1 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.38 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. These investments will go a long way toward modernizing our aging wastewater systems and delivering safe drinking water to all of our citizens.

Additionally, I am pleased that today's conference report contains \$2.7 billion for our national parks. In addition to sustaining ongoing park operations, this funding will help the National Park Service continue to upgrade our parks ahead of the Service's 2016 centennial celebration.

As Congress works to finalize comprehensive clean energy and climate change legislation, this bill invests \$385 million in climate change research and abatement, including \$17 million to continue development of a Greenhouse Gas Registry and \$51 million for EPA's Energy Star program.

Finally, this FY 10 Interior-Environment Conference report includes \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts and \$167.5 million for the National Endowment of the Humanities to foster excellence and greater access to our Nation's cultural heritage.

Madam Speaker, in addition to these national priorities, I am particularly gratified that this legislation includes \$50 million in core funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay program, and \$750,000 for the city of Rockville to rehabilitate its sanitary sewer system. This is important, fiscally responsible legislation, and I urge my colleagues' support.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information.

Bill Number: H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Project Name: Winnebago River, Mason City, Ia.

Amount Provided: Not Stipulated  
Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Section 205  
Recipient: Rock Island Illinois Corps Office/Mason City, Iowa  
Recipient's Street Address: Clock Tower Bldg., Rodman Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201  
Description: Continuation of authorized activities.

This project is related to mitigating recurring flood problems in Iowa, and provides for continuation of flood control strategies being undertaken by the Corps.

#### RECOGNIZING LIBERTY ISD STAFF FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, those who educate our children today, shape the leaders of tomorrow. I rise today to recognize six outstanding staff members of the Liberty Independent School District for their outstanding commitment to education.

Dottie Barrier—Business Secretary, Robby Fontenot—Social Studies Teacher and Coach, Margaret Lee—Chief Financial Officer for LISD, Mike Tabors—Custodian, Abbey Turner—Math Teacher, and Melissa Zalesak—Math Computer Lab Teacher were awarded the district's 212-degree medal in honor of their service and dedication to Liberty schools.

The philosophy of the 212-degree medal was best explained by Principal Bruce Lacefield, "At 211 degrees, water is very hot. At 212 degrees, water begins to boil. By applying that one extra degree so much more can be accomplished. Never give up. Just try a little harder."

These six 212-degree medal recipients work tirelessly to improve the lives of their students and fellow faculty. Their willingness to go the extra mile makes them outstanding examples and I commend them for their efforts and congratulate them on their achievement.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

Description of Request: Provides \$70,000 to conduct a feasibility study to address flooding concerns and environmental restoration. The